US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Feasiblity Study: Souris River Basin, North Dakota

Map of Souris River basin.

Contact

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Location/Description

The Souris River flows from Saskatchewan, Canada, into North Dakota through the communities of Burlington, Minot, Sawyer, Velva and then back into Canada.

In the mid-1970s, a series of major flood events occurred. To protect the communities, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed a series of Public Law 84-99 emergency levees, which were later incorporated into the Federal project. Since then, the emergency levees have undergone limited maintenance and experienced structural encroachments, however, these levees remain the primary line of defense for major flood events. While the emergency levees have provided some protection against major flood events, a permanent solution is needed to reduce the flood risk to these critical North Dakota communities.

The Souris River in the North Dakota cities of Burlington, Minot, Logan, and Sawyer had a flood of record in 2011 with flows of 27,400 cubic feet per second. These flows devastated the communities and caused evacuations of more than 11,000 residents and approximately a billion dollars in damage to private and public property. The recovery efforts are still ongoing.

Status

Annual flooding in the basin, combined with the record flood event in 2011, continues to stress the area. Many repairs have been made to the Federal levee system since the 2011 event. Levee safety and confidence in the existing Federal project during a flood event has been significantly reduced.

In June 2015, the Souris River Joint Water Resources Board (SRJB) submitted a letter of intent to serve as the non-Federal sponsor for the Corps to conduct a feasibility study. The Souris River Basin-Wide Feasibility study will holistically examine modifications to existing reservoirs, channels, and levees within the project area and evaluate any possible new structural or nonstructural measures to address flood risk management.

The study was initially funded in February 2016, as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year 2016 work plan. In May 2016, the Corps and SRJB executed a feasibility cost share agreement and initiated the feasibility study. In January 2017 the study completed its Alternatives Milestone.

Study Schedule

Tentatively Selected Plan	August 2017
Agency Decision Milestone	December 2017
Civil Works Review Board	December 2018

Authority

Section 209 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of November 7, 1966.

Fiscal

The feasibility study will be funded with 50 percent Federal and 50 percent non-Federal funds.

Estimated study Federal cost	$1,500,000
Estimated study non-Federal cost	$1,500,000
Total estimated study cost	$3,000,000
Total Federal funding to date	$700,000

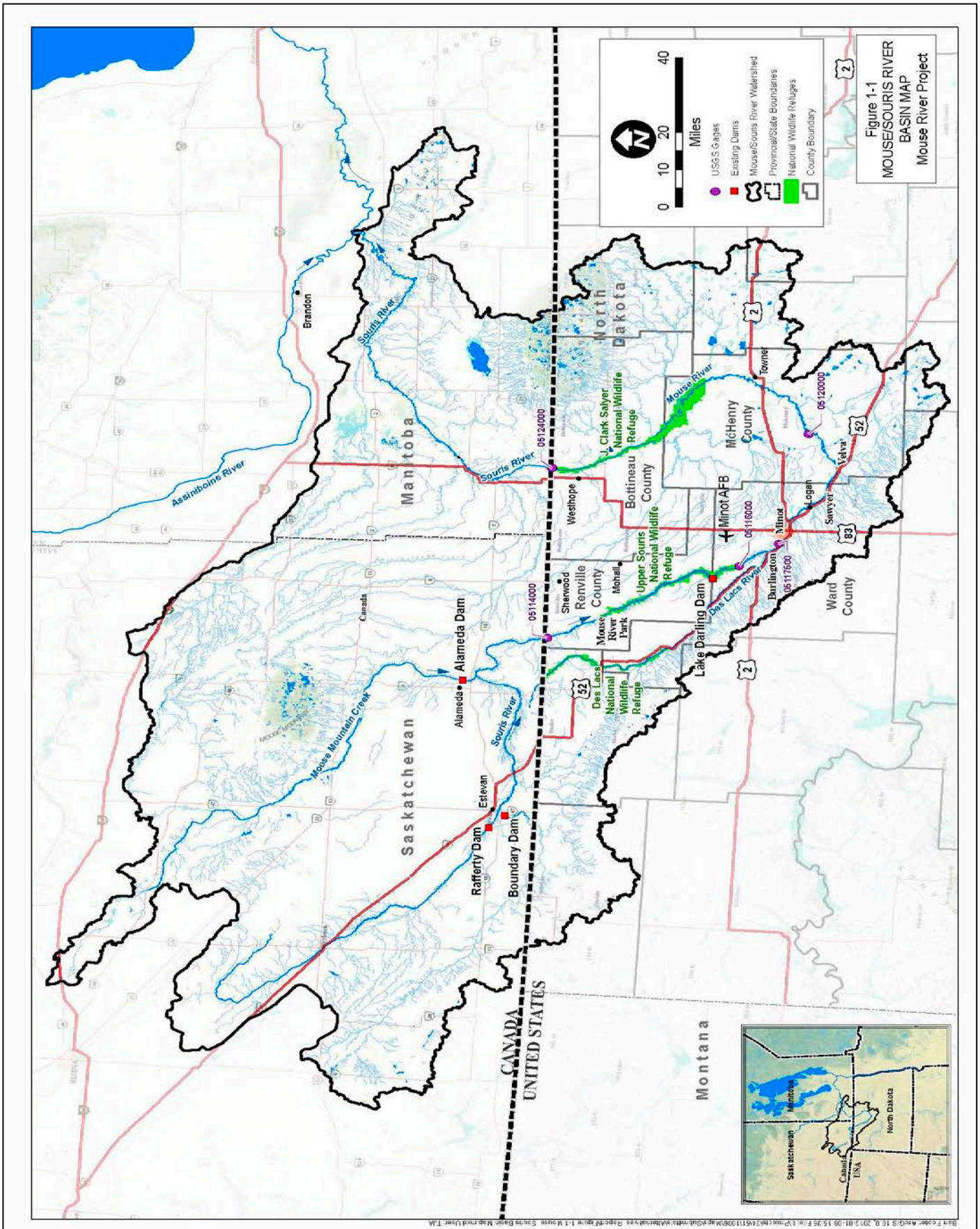
Figure 1-1
MOUSE/SOURIS RIVER
BASIN MAP
Mouse River Project
Miles
0
10
20
40
USGS Gages
Existing Dams
Mouse/Souris River Watershed
Provincial/State Boundaries
National Wildlife Refuges
County Boundary
Brandon
Souris River
Assiniboine River
Manitoba
Saskatchewan
North Dakota
Montana
CANADA
UNITED STATES
Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge
Mouse River
Towner
McHenry County
Bottineau County
Westhope
Minot AFB
Minot
Logan
Sawyer
Velva
Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge
Renville County
Sherwood
Mohall
Ward County
Des Lacs River
Lake Darling Dam
Mouse River Park
Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge
Alameda Dam
Alameda
Moose Mountain Creek
Estevan
Rafferty Dam
Boundary Dam
05124000
05120000
05116000
05117500
05114000
Canada
USA
Manitoba
Saskatchewan
North Dakota